



John E. Lee, a Vietnam War veteran and retired Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army, was appointed director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs on November 1, 2005, by Governor Christine Gregoire.

As agency director, his responsibilities include advocacy and outreach for the state's more than 670,000 veterans and their families, as well as overseeing three veterans homes throughout the state.

A native of West Virginia, Lee entered the U.S. Army in 1968, and spent the next 21 years serving in the Army's Infantry. He served in the Republic of Vietnam with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade and assignments with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Drill Sergeant, Fort Jackson, SC, First Sergeant in the 3-60th Infantry (Berlin Brigade), and multiple assignments as Command Sergeant Major. He finished his Army career as the Command Sergeant Major of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, retiring in 1990.

After completing his military service, Lee entered the public sector, joining WDVA as an administrative assistant. In 1994 he was appointed as the agency Deputy Director and has served with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs for a total of 15 years.

He holds three degrees, including a Masters on Health Administration. He has served on the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council, he is the cochairman for the Fort Lewis Retiree Council, and is a proud member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disable Veterans of American, and the Association of the United States Army.

Mr. Lee and his wife Tammy reside in Olympia. They have 2 adult sons and 3 grandsons.